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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kazakh SSR, Kirgiz SSR, Udmurt ASSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Forced Labor Camps for Political Prisoners in Karaganda Oblast 2. Clinics in Karaganda 3. Defense Plants in Izhevsk, Udmurt ASSR, and in Frunze, Kirgiz SSR	DATE DISTR.	12 February 1957
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1. [redacted] ten-page report containing information on forced labor camps for political prisoners in Karaganda Oblast, clinics in the Karaganda area, and defense plants in Izhevsk (N 56-51, E 53-14) and Frunze (N 42-54, E74-36).
2. The camps described in the report are in Balkhash (N 46-49, E 75-00), Dzhezkazgan (N 47-47, E 67-46), and Kingir (N 47-48, E 67-10). A sketch of the camp at Balkhash is attached. The report contains information on the number of inmates in the camps, political categories of the prisoners, the copper and molybdenum mines in which prisoners were employed, the changes that improved camp life after the death of Stalin, and a description of the revolt in March 1954 at Camp Kingir.
3. The report lists five clinics in Karaganda and refers briefly to defense plants in Izhevsk in the Udmurt ASSR and in Frunze in the Kirgiz SSR.

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Camps for Political Prisoners in the Karaganda Province

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1. Among the various types of labor camps in the Karaganda Province of Kazakh SSR are camps for political prisoners, some of which are located in the towns of Dzheskazgan, Balkhash and Kingir.

2. The Dzheskazgan Camp has approximately 3,000 inmates, all of which are employed by four copper mines located a distance of 500 meters from the town. The mines have been in a constant state of development since 1948, when efforts were initiated to increase copper production in the region. With the development of the mines came a corresponding increase in the population of the area, and by 1953, the town of Dzheskazgan, which is located approximately 600 kilometers southeast of the province center of Karaganda, had reached

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a population of 30,000. Most of Dzhe^zkazgan's inhabitants now make their living either directly or indirectly from the mines. The majority of those inhabitants not connected with the mines are employed in construction work.

3. All of the approximately 1,200 inmates of the Balkhash Camp are employed either in the local molybdenum mines¹ or in three copper mines. The mines are located about 20 kilometers east of Balkhash and have been in production since 1939. The steadily growing population of Balkhash, which was 60,000 in 1955, is mainly employed by the molybdenum and the copper mines or by the copper smelting plant (Obogatitelna^{YA}) ^(ore dressing or screening plant) The copper smelting plant processes its own ore and that from the Dzhe^zkazgan mines. Prior to the establishment of a plant for the Kingir mines, the ore was sent to the Balkhash plant. Another Balkhash metallurgical foundry (Balkashki^Y Medney Zavod) was constructed in 1939. The foundry manufactures 1 x 1.80 meter copper place from the produce of the smelting plant. It is continually expanding; in 1955, it opened two new buildings for electro-plating and anodizing shops.

4. Inmates of the Dzhe^zkazgan, Balkhash and Kingir prisons are divided into the following categories:

a. Soviets who, during the war, collaborated with Germans and Red Army personnel who have been German prisoners-of-war.

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b. Partisans from the Baltic States, Poland or the Ukraine who fought the Soviets either on their own or in conjunction with the Germans.²

c. [REDACTED] artists and writers [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Most of these persons appeared to be from families of high military and NKVD officers.

d. Five generals from Marshall Zhukov's staff who were released after the death of Stalin.

5. Prisoners at the Kingir Camp also are employed by the town's copper mines. These mines are a distance of approximately 20 kilometers from Dzhegkazgan. Details of a mutiny at the Kingir Camp were related by some prisoners who were transferred, after the rebellion, from the Kingir Camp to the Balkhash Camp. In March 1954, the guards at the Kingir Camp shot and killed two 'innocent prisoners who were alleged to have attempted escape (guards are paid a special bonus for the prevention of such instances.) As a protest against the murder, the camp's inmates refused to work for a period of three days, and at the same time, requested the appointment of an inquiry committee. When the camp commander attempted to arrest a number of prisoners suspected of organizing the resistance, open mutiny broke out which lasted three weeks. Guards, who at that time usually entered the compound unarmed,

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were quickly driven out, and stone-throwing prisoners forced the withdrawal of the watch tower sentries. The camp commander appealed to the prisoners to restore order and guaranteed that nobody would be punished and that the request for an inquiry committee would be granted, but the mutineers declared that they would settle for negotiation only with a representative of the Party's Central Committee. When this demand was refused, the prisoners began breaking up the enclosures which separated the various camps from one another, as well as from the stores and from the women's section. Further efforts to quell the rebellion resulted in an attempt by the guards to detach small groups of the rebels from the main body by cutting a number of openings through the outer wall of the prison, and by inviting those willing to surrender to leave the compound, but the few who followed this appeal were immediately killed by the other prisoners. At the end of the third week, tanks broke through the wall openings and "mopped up" the remaining centers of resistance, thus putting an end to the rebellion. The assumed ringleaders were taken to unknown destinations, while their followers were transferred to other camps and were replaced by newcomers.

6. The discipline is extremely strict and the food very poor in the Balkhash, Dzheskazgan and Kingir camps. Food rations consist of soup or porridge three times a day, and either 50 or 70 grams of

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bread, depending upon the prisoner's fulfillment of his work norm. The water content of the bread is very high; its caloric value is hardly equivalent to 25 grams of standard quality bread. Until 1952, lack of sufficient eating utensils at the Dzheskazgan Camp necessitated breakfast to be served in three shifts, and the prisoners were awakened by reveille at 0300. Since 1952, however, reveille has been 0500 in the summer and 0600 in the winter.

7. The "thaw" following Stalin's death resulted in a number of major changes in the prison regime. The most noteworthy of these changes are the following:

a. Prisoners are now permitted to write more than two letters per week, and the letters need not necessarily be to members of their families.

b. The use of numbers on the prisoner's clothes and caps has been discontinued.

c. Prisoners are now paid 10% of their wages. Prior to the "thaw", they received no wages.

d. Two guards are assigned to escort groups of 25 prisoners instead of the previous system of one guard for every four prisoners.

e. Bars have been removed from the barracks and doors are no longer locked at night (the compounds are enclosed by walls three meters high which are topped with barbed wire).

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f. The working day has been reduced from ten to nine hours.

g. Now, political prisoners as well as criminal offenders can be released from camp on medical grounds. A special MGB commission has been appointed to investigate the medical board's recommendations in this respect.

h. Prisoners who exceed the nine-hour work day norm have the corresponding amount of time deducted from their sentences.

i. Before the "thaw", days of rest were determined by the camp commander, and they generally did not number more than one day of rest over a period of one or two months. The prisoners now are permitted three free Sundays each month.

One of the few aspects of camp life that has been untouched by the "thaw" is the food. However, the hardship is indirectly lessened by the fact that prisoners can supplement their rations from the camp's canteen with the wages they now receive.

Clinics in the Province of Karaganda

8. The following clinics are located in Karaganda:

a. Municipal Clinic (Gor-Klinik), located on prospekt Stalina in the center of town. The Clinic comprises a number of two or three story buildings and treats all common diseases.

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b. Children's Clinic, located in the center of town, has seventy beds.

c. Maternity Clinic, located in the vicinity of Gor-Klinik.

d. District Clinic (Ray-Bolnitsa No. 1) on Molokova Street in the Fiodorovka quarter, Leninski Rayon. This Clinic is near the local mines. It treats all common diseases and is comprised of a number of buildings, some of which are dispersed throughout Leninski Rayon, primarily in the vicinity of the mines.

e. Surgical Clinic, located in Kirovski Rayon.

Defense Plants

9. Many heavy armament factories, manufacturing tanks and guns, are located in the town of Izhevsk, about 300 kilometers east of Kazan.

10. There are two defense plants in Frunze, Kirgiz SSR. These plants, which were moved east from their original World War II location in the Ukraine, are designated as Zavod No. 50 and Zavod No. 60. Before World War II, the plants produced tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Personalities

11. Aleksandra Borisova ANTSELEVICH: [redacted] Director of the District Clinic in Karaganda. [redacted]

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12. Zinofida Fedorovna IVANOVA:

Deputy Director of the District Clinic

13. Attached is a sketch and legend of the Balkhash Camp:
- a. Entrance gate through outer wall (No. 1 on sketch).
 - b. Entrance gate through wall three meters high, one meter thick, topped with barbed wire (No. 2 on sketch).
 - c. Guard room (No. 3 on sketch).
 - d. Four watch towers at the compound corners (No. 4 on sketch).
 - e. Entrance gate through inner barbed-wire fence (No. 5 on sketch).
 - f. Camp Commander's office (No. 6 on sketch).
 - g. Eight prisoners' barracks (No. 7 on sketch).
 - h. Dining Hall (No. 8 on sketch).
 - i. Wash room (No. 9 on sketch).

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Comments:

1. A large percentage of those employed in the molybdenum mines are afflicted with silicosis, and the mortality rate from this disease is very high.

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2. The Ukrainian and Lithuanian partisans compose the largest of all of the groups.

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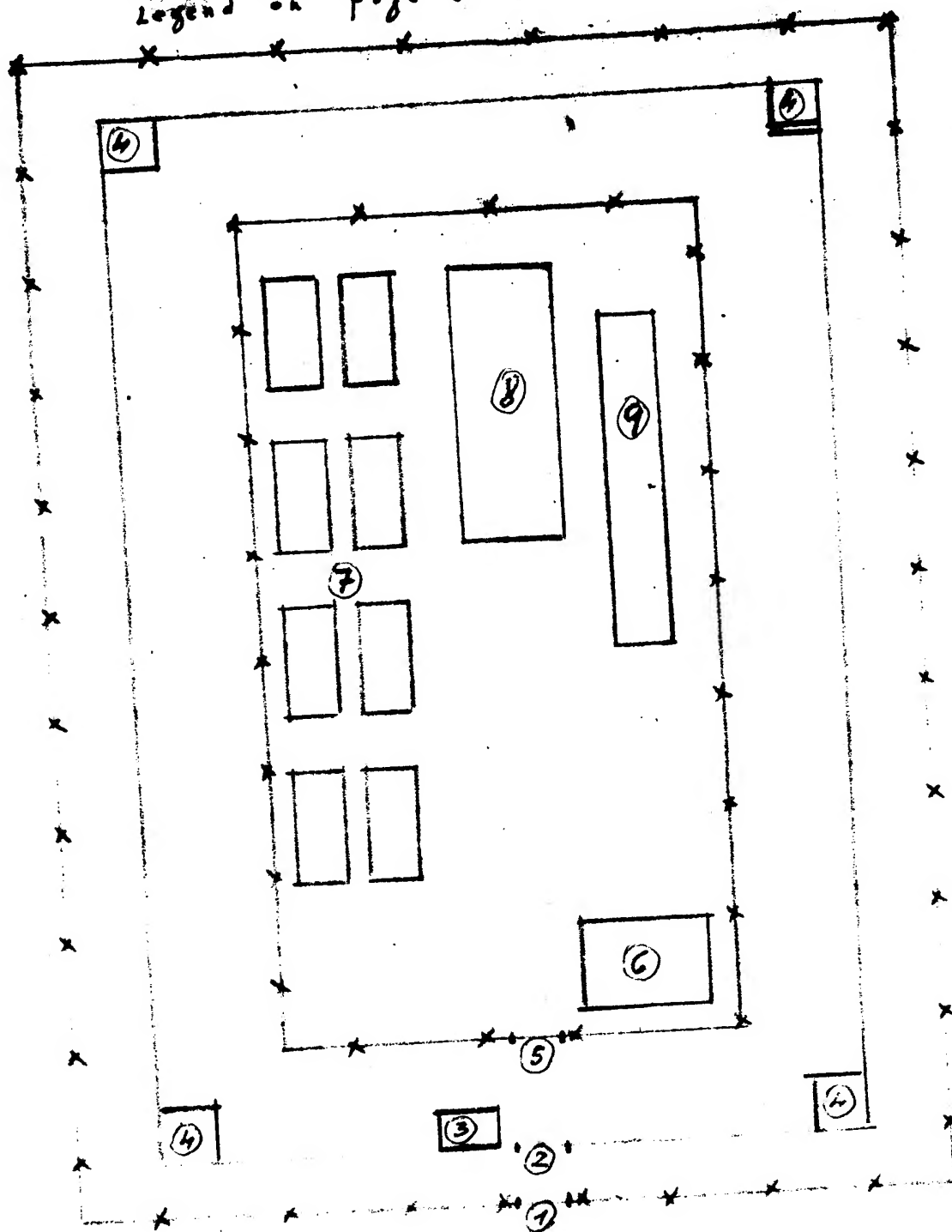
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APP. B

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SKETCH OF BALKHASH CAMP
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